

General Macdonell's Farewell.

Final Order of the Day to First Division.

Major-General Sir Archibald C. Macdonell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding the First Division—"The Old Red Patch"—has issued a striking address to the officers and men of his command. This address, which takes the form of a Final Order of the Day, is as follows:—

In returning to God's own country—Canada—I want you to do so with your hearts full of love and gratitude to our ain folk, the Canadian people, for the splendid, unflinching faith and loyal, whole-hearted support they gave us throughout the long years of war.

There is nothing finer in the world's history than the free people of Canada voting for conscription. Women who had lost husbands, sons and relatives voted for it, knowing more must go; employers of labour voted for it to their own detriment; a wondrous act of self-abnegation on the part of all concerned, so that we should not be lacking in support in our time of need. We know, you and I, how it uplifted our morale and put the "pep and ginger" into us, which enabled us to do great things. It has been hard for us at times on the battle-front, but we had an active part to play, and were fully occupied fighting the foulest and most unscrupulous enemy the world has yet seen. And nothing we have been through, in my judgment, begins to equal the agony of mind, tension of nerves, and daily anxiety endured by the sweet-faced women of Canada, who sent their men to the war, if not gladly, resolutely, to fight for Right *versus* Might.

Take into civil life with you and practise the same loyalty and *esprit de corps* in your business that you have displayed towards your units in the war. If you are an employer of labour, exercise the same fatherly care and interest in the well-being of your employees that you did in your Battalion, Company, or Platoon—you always fought up to see they obtained fair play—and if you are an employee, give your employer the same hearty co-operation, hard work and loyal support that you gave your officer of yore. Rest assured it will stand for success from all points of view.

We have been through great things together, seen much, endured much, accomplished much. Let us so conduct ourselves in civil life as to bring further credit on the "Old Red Patch," the proudest of them all, the one the Huns knew best and liked the least.

In entering civil life again think well over it; put the question in all seriousness and solemnity to yourself: "What am I going to do with this life that has been left to me by the Great Quartermaster above?" Decide upon your course of action, concentrate on it as you did in the past upon defeating the Boche, exhibit the same splendid qualities of faith, courage, initiative, hard work, and tenacity of purpose, and you will succeed, no doubt of it. Get your backs into it. We don't want charity. All we ask is a fair chance and

a square deal, and our fellows will make good. Remember we *must* make good. Every returned soldier who does so makes it easier for his comrades to obtain good jobs, and *vice versa*.

But success to a man is of little value unless he has wife and bairns to share it with him, and enable him to partake of the real joy of life—his own happy home. Therefore, my advice to each single man of you is, get married to some nice, capable girl, who will be a real helpmate, and has no cowardly notions about bearing children. Get busy. Make a home for yourself as soon as possible.

And this brings me to the wish of your hearts, that units and battalions should be perpetuated in Canada by units and battalions bearing our names and numbers, as the custodians of the glorious records gained in so many stubborn battles. I believe that this will be done, and that our Canadian counties will insist that our records and traditions—their own most valuable assets—do not fall to the ground. And I hope you will all live to see the day when your son wears the "Old Red Patch" the same as "Dad" wore, and just as proudly.

This is a solemn time for us all.

No Canadian can view the demobilisation of the 1st Canadian Division, and all that that means and stands for—the Old Guard Division of the Canadian Corps—without emotion.

Memories crowd fast upon us; our victories, our glorious dead—who fell battling for the Right, and therefore fell in the Peace of God, and live to-day as never before—our maimed and mutilated comrades, Canada's care, and ours, through life.

The 1st Canadian Division has proved on many a bloody, triumphant field that it is the last word in military efficiency—for nearly four years front line assault troops, and uniformly successful.

One does not know which branch or arm to praise most, all are so splendidly gallant, loyal and efficient, of proved worth and valour.

I cannot view the breaking up of my beautiful 1st Canadian Division, the men of the "Old Red Patch," with equanimity. It breaks me up too. That is the truth.

I shall soon only be a memory to you. It will, however, I trust, be the pleasant memory of a Canadian General who believed in you, trusted you, cared for you, gloried in your steadfast courage, discipline, and truly wonderful achievements, and who hopes none of you will be the worse for being "Macdonell's Men."

Canada is proud of you, and Canada is grateful.

For myself, my pride in my Division is immeasurable, my gratitude complete.

God bless and protect every one of you in the years to come, and give you each happiness and success.

Remember that we of the 1st Canadian Division—Canada's "Old Guard"—stand present for the King.